



February 24, 2008 -
March 8, 2008

Calendar

Sunday, February 24

9:00 Worship Service
9:00 Membership Committee
10:00 Women’s Spirituality Group
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 VIA LOC Meeting

Monday, February 25

***** Zen (Call office for time.)

Tuesday, February 26

10:00 Small Group Ministry
6:30 Ministerial Search Committee

Wednesday, February 27

9:00 Staff Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 28

***** Zen (Call office for time.)
9:00 Newsletter Crew
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class
6:00 Mysticism Sm. Group Ministry

Friday, February 29

6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, March 1

Sunday, March 2

9:00 Worship Service
9:00 Social Action Committee
11:00 Worship Service
12:30 Peacemaking Forum

Monday, March 3

***** Zen (Call office for time.)
6:00 Anti-Racism Action Com.

Tuesday, March 4

10:00 Wisdom Wanderers
6:30 Ministerial Search Committee
7:00 Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 5

9:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 RE Committee Meeting
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 6

***** Zen (Call office for time.)
12:00 Root Yoga Community Class

Friday, March 7

10:30 Women’s Alliance Meeting
6:30 AA Men’s Group

Saturday, March 8

6:00 Second Saturday Potluck

In My Heart

You need to know that I grew up resenting the game of football. The reason being that whenever Notre Dame lost, something of a pall fell over our home. My family were devout fans, not only my three older brothers, but my father as well. He was known to have to turn the radio off (he never lived to see the miracle of T.V.) when the score got too close. His heart couldn’t take the excitement. One of my sisters promised to give up candy for a year so that the Fighting Irish would win.

As the youngest, I never quite got into it. Then as I grew older I didn’t like all the injuries some of the players carried with them through life, which was the case with one of my brothers-in-law. When I taught in an all-boys’ high school in Paramus, N.J., we took up a collection for a student who was paralyzed as a result of an injury on the field.

Having said all this, on Super Bowl Sunday I found myself cheering for both the Patriots and then the Giants. As someone coming late to the game, my loyalties didn’t run that deep, unlike fans who had faithfully followed one team or the other, who had invested hours cheering on their respective team. I ask these ardent fans for forgiveness when I confess that, like some kind of turncoat, I started out a Patriot fan and ended up a Giants’ fan. I chose the Patriots only because Bill is always for the underdog and it’s more fun if we’re on different sides.

What ultimately won my heart for the Giants was their quarterback Eli Manning. He seemed much more vulnerable than his counterpart Tom Brady. I relate more to vulnerability. Then the image of his older brother Peyton, cheering him on from the press box above the field, clinched the deal.

But the real inspiration of the evening came in a post game interview with Richard Seymour, defensive end for the Patriots. Seymour, unlike his coach Bill Belichick, was beautifully reflective, not resentful. He spoke about how both teams played their best and how grateful he felt just for the opportunity to play. Finally, he said that losing didn’t hurt his spiritual life. That’s what I call a healthy competitor, one who is not defined by winning or losing, one whose spiritual life allows him to cope with failure every once in a while. If I could vote for “most valuable player,” I’d nominate Richard Seymour.

Roddy

Upcoming Sundays

February Worship Theme:

Relationships

Relationships are a way of coming to know our selves. That’s why they may be at times challenging. Self knowledge is not easily come by. If we are not in touch with our shadow side we are at risk of projecting it onto a friend or loved one, making them the cause of what is ultimately our own failure or limitation. Our world is a network of relationships, when we genuinely connect with another person we come alive, we experience the “relational liveliness that energizes the universe.” How can we maximize these encounters? The French writer Colette once said, “What a wonderful life I’ve had. I only wish I had realized it sooner.” How does our lack of attention to others keep us from appreciating our wonderful lives?

Sunday, February 24, 9am & 11:00 am

“Religion Between Friends” Elizabeth Cady Stanton, more often considered Susan B. Anthony’s sidekick was in fact the real genius of the suffragist movement. She wrote Anthony’s speeches while Susan cared for Elizabeth’s seven children. Ultimately the two friends became bitterly divided over the issue of religion. This Sunday Roddy considers the religious heresy of E. C. Stanton and its consequences for the movement. The choir will sing at the 11:00am service.

Sunday, March 2, 9 & 11am

“Revolutionary Spirits” Many have asked if Gary will be giving a talk on his new book. This is it! Our nation’s founders were spiritual, as well as political, revolutionaries. They worshiped Nature’s God, not the God of the Bible, and expounded a gospel of democratic self-government rather than a doctrine of submission to church teaching or ecclesiastical authority. As church and state grow increasingly entangled, it is time to remember and reclaim the liberal heritage that give our country birth. Copies of *Revolutionary Spirits* will be available from our book cart, with a portion of proceeds from each sale benefiting our First UU Society.

Sunday, March 9, 9am & 11am

“Our Legacy of Caring” What will be the legacy of the First UU Society? Members of the congregation will speak to this question using their stories of support and caring. This will be a lay led service coordinated by the Worship Committee.

Newsletter News

Next deadline: Monday, February 25, 2008 @9am covering March 9 - March 22, 2008. You can view the newsletter and this year’s schedule on our website: www.uusociety.org.

Religious Education News

Our annual canvass is underway! This time each year, our ministers, staff, board, and committee chairs share their dreams, both for this Society, and for Unitarian Universalism itself. What are Religious Education's dreams? R.E. has grown by over 20% this year, so to support that unprecedented and continued growth, we want three things starting this summer:

1. A 10% increase of our program budget;
2. Lead Preschool teachers who are paid staff, allowing parents of younger children much more time to spend in the worship service;
3. A second paid youth advisor, and more total hours for the youth advisors. This will support our youth group to be more visible, active, and deeply engaged.

These dreams have been factored into the whole Society's budget, and a canvass goal of \$412,000 in pledges has been set. What happens next is *care, commitment, generosity, and action!*

When I was 26, I discovered Unitarian Universalism and immediately knew I had found my spiritual home. Here was a place where my values were shared and *amplified!* Here I could meet and join others and take action together with them to pour a very special kind of love into the wider community! That year, I was asked to support that church's canvass. At first, when I was shown the UUA's *Fair Share* contribution guidelines, I gulped. I was working as a substitute teacher and making so little money that I was receiving unemployment benefits. I had never pledged to a church before. I hadn't ever given away more than \$25, except to my college (and I gave them \$50).

But I found UUism *so compelling!* I wanted to help it grow! I believed – and still believe deeply – that the voice of UU is a voice of healing, of liberation, of renewal, of action, and of love. So that year I *radically recalibrated* my notion of generosity! Following those *Fair Share guidelines*, I pledged \$600 to that UU congregation.

If you support this Society at your Fair Share level, Thank You! In this world, some other congregations send their members *bills*, or expect everyone to contribute a full 10% of their income. *Fair Share* suggests giving between 1-4%, depending on your adjusted gross income. This level of giving helps tremendously to raise the volume of our collective UU voice.

Last year, my partner Lucy and I *doubled* our pledge here, to give our fair share. Our financial resources had changed and it was time, again, to recalibrate my "generosity-meter." Once again, I'll admit, we both gulped to do this. But the *reward* is that giving to UU is like giving to *yourself* – giving to your *ideal* self, your *true* self, your self *in a community of spirit*. If UU is YOU, nurture it and feed it as fully as you can!

Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you!
Martha

Book Cart News

Have you checked out the Book Cart lately? Twice a month the First UU Book Cart is available for you to browse and purchase books. The Book Cart will be in the Community Room after each service on the first Sunday of the month, and in the Parlors after each service on the third Sunday of the month. New books have just arrived, including these: *Thirst*, a new collection of poetry by Mary Oliver; *Winter: A Spiritual Biography of the Season*, a collection of poems, stories and essays about our longest season edited by Gary Schmidt; *Global Values 101*, a collection of essays by the likes of Howard Zinn; some new children's books; and many others. And of course, there are many books about Unitarian Universalism for adults and children. New titles will be arriving on a regular basis. The most anticipated new arrival is our own Gary Kowalski's *Revolutionary Spirits: The Enlightened Faith of America's Founding Fathers*. Proceeds from sales of books benefit our Society. Stop by the Book Cart and see what's new!

Book Discussion Group

Please join us for any or all of our discussions. On Tuesday, March 11, we will discuss *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by *Ishmael Beah*. "-- his honesty is exacting, and a testament of children to outlive their suffering if given a chance" -- The New Yorker. The meeting will be at 7pm at the First UU Society. Please call Bud or Alison Etherton at 658-4126 with questions.

Spring 2008 Women & Religion Retreat

"Wings Set Me Free" Ladies – Mark your calendars! May 30th-June 1st, Rockcraft Retreat Center, Sebago Lake, Maine. Registration forms will be in the churches late March and the deadline is April 25th. For a sneak peak of what is planned please visit our blog at [www.uuwomenandreligion.blogspot.com!](http://www.uuwomenandreligion.blogspot.com)

Young Adults

If you're between the ages of 18 and 35 and would like to connect with peers who share a liberal religious orientation, check out our Young Adult network, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/burlington-uuyan>.

Peacemaking Forum: Curbing Militarism

The next forum in our ongoing series focusing on the UUA's 2006-2010 Congregational/Study Action Issue of "Peacemaking" is Sunday, March 2 from 12:30-1:30 PM at the First UU Society. We are thrilled that Matt Howard, president of the Vermont chapter of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW), has accepted our invitation to speak--and respond to questions--about "Curbing Militarism."

Matt has served as a United States Marine in Iraq and has just become coordinator of the Vermont American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) Youth Empowerment and Military Education Project. Matt wrote recently that his new job "is literally about saving lives; the lives of potential US service members; the lives of Iraqi civilians and the lives of all those around the world who are victims of US foreign policy."

At our Peacemaking Forum on March 2, Matt will talk about his work with young people in several Vermont high schools. As Matt points out: "I want to stop kids before they find themselves in this situation. Having my background with the Marines, having put in two tours in Iraq, I have a credibility among students that often even the recruiters don't have. Some time ago I made a commitment to forever talk honestly and openly about what we did in Iraq, and that message is now entering the classroom."

Matt will also discuss the upcoming Winter Soldier campaign taking place from March 13-16 in Washington, DC. At that time, Iraq Veterans Against the War will gather to share their experiences in a public investigation called Winter Soldier: Iraq and Afghanistan. Winter Soldiers, according to Thomas Paine, are those who stand up for the soul of their country, even in its darkest hours. The message of IVAW is: "It is our responsibility to tell the truth, and it is America's duty to listen." Supportive activities in Vermont are now being organized: contact Joseph Gainza at (802) 229-2340 or jgainza@afsc.org if you want to help.

We hope that you can join us at the Peacemaking Forum: Curbing Militarism on March 2, at 12:30pm. Refreshments will be served. *Dave Conrad, Denominational Affairs*

An Evening of Anti-War Songs:

**First Unitarian Universalist
Society**
862-5630

Gary Kowalski, Minister

*Roddy O'Neil Cleary,
Affiliate Minister*

*Jerrold Packard,
Board President*

*Martha Dallas, Director
of Religious Education*

*David McFeeters,
Facilities Manager*

*Wayne Schneider,
Music Director*
wayne.schneider@uvm.edu

*Christina Fulton,
Society Administrator*

*Kathleen Ingram,
Administrative Assistant*

Email: office@uusociety.org
Web Page: www.uusociety.org

Old and New from the Young and Old!

I Ain't Marching Anymore: A Phil Ochs Song Night, will feature performances of Phil's songs and original material by Amber deLaurentis & Tom Cleary, Jon Gailmor, The Magnolias, Colin Clary, Rik Palieri, Hannah Pitkin & Max Bronstein-Partiz of the Limes, and a rare Chittenden County appearance by Vermont's folksinging Senator Dick McCormack. This concert is a benefit for the Peace & Justice Center's Recruiting for Peace Campaign. Friday, March 7 at 7pm at Contois Auditorium, City Hall, Burlington. Tickets: \$20, \$15 for age 12 and under. On sale at the Peace & Justice Center, 863-2345 x2, or the Flynn Box Office.

Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA) Local Organizing Committee

Thank you for coming to our successful VIA Action on February 10. Now it's time to move forward. Help decide VIA's and our Local Organizing Committee's next steps! Please come to our next LOC meeting on Sunday, February 24, at 12:30pm. Refreshments will be served!

Ministerial Search

Our search is moving ahead on schedule. We presently have nine applicants and plan to present a recommendation to the Board by mid-March. Brad Greeley, part of the UUA Transition team, met with us for several hours last week and was most helpful in his suggestions for a process that he knows well.

Part of this process as outlined by the UUA is a Congregational Packet, which we the Search Committee prepare. We offer these to candidates to familiarize them with our congregation as well as the community that surrounds us. This three-ring binder will be on the piano, the membership area of the Parlors, during coffee hour. Take a few moments to peruse it; in the end, it can provide opening conversation for all of us with our new Assistant Minister.

Two of the initial members of the committee, Aimee Hutchins-Cronin and John Byers, have found it necessary to leave the committee; Aimee had family to attend to, and John, once again, is co-chairing the Canvass with Debby Bergh. The Search Committee was thrilled to have longtime member Jonathan Sands join us as a replacement in this important matter.

As we enter the interview stage of this process, the committee must assume a strict code of confidentiality and asks for your cooperation by refraining from any direct questions of us. We will do our best to keep you informed through the newsletter. Thank you, *the Search Committee, Gary DeCarolis, Lynn Foster, Meryl Grossmyer, Barbara Heeter, Bridget Meyer, Jonathan Sands*

Kids' Night Out

Looking for a kid free night out on the town? Enjoy a three hour date with your sweetheart on March 22, from 6-9pm. Leave the children with the Youth Group teens for a night filled with movies, fun and games! The proceeds from the evening will be put toward Youth Group activities in the community. \$20 for the first child, \$10 for each additional child. Email george.rutherford@uvm.edu, Youth Group Advisor, to sign up.

Whale Coast Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural program this July in our 12th year! See *REAL Alaska*, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see lots of wildlife like bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles and visit Denali and other National Parks. Dave Frey, a 27-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit our website, www.wuurld.org, email waltonfrey@gci.net, or phone 907-322-4966 for a brochure. Reservation

deadline March 15.

Got Goals?

What do you want our congregation to concentrate on in the next 5 years? What are our Society's goals? Those are just two of the questions that the Goals Committee wants you to answer. The Goals Committee [Gary Kowalski, David McFeeters, Linda Gross, George Rutherford, Susan Rutherford, Scott Gardner, Sharon Leach, Brian Haas], will be talking about how we go about getting input from the entire congregation to answer those questions. We are considering a large retreat style meeting, perhaps even a two day goal setting meeting. We are also considering other, less time consuming ways to get your input. The Goals Committee is tasked with facilitating the goal setting process. The bottom line is that goal setting is being discussed and that everyone in the congregation will be asked to participate. Please keep your eyes on the newsletter and around our congregation, for ways to get involved in setting our 5 year goals.

A Fantastic Turnout—a Powerful Action from VIA

Vermont Interfaith Action would like to heartily thank all those who attended our public Action meeting on Feb. 10th! Between 250-300 people gathered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul to hold Mayor Bob Kiss and CEDO Director Larry Kupferman accountable for the lack of affordable housing at the Westlake development at Cherry and Battery Streets. Although Mayor Kiss was not willing to speak about the particulars of the Westlake project because of ongoing negotiations, he did make clear that he wanted the settlement to reflect the public interest. City attorney Ken Schatz assured VIA that the city was unwilling to accept an offer of \$124,000 payment into the Housing Trust Fund by the developer in lieu of building affordable housing on-site and will be seeking a much higher amount. Monies in the fund are used to finance affordable housing projects throughout the city. City officials, including Ward 3 City Councilor Timothy Ashe, also pledged their re-commitment to affordable housing, and committed to maintaining an open development process which values public involvement.

Mayor Kiss also acknowledged the importance of VIA, and welcomed the active participation of our leaders working together with City officials to improve the process regarding future development projects. VIA's goal is to ensure that affordable housing is always an important component of any development project, in compliance with the city's newly strengthened inclusionary zoning ordinance, which VIA helped to achieve. Because of the support of the First Unitarian Universalist Society and the hundreds of people who showed up at our Action, our voices are being heard by city government. This is a great victory! By your participation we are becoming a people of power who are able to effect positive change for the city of Burlington! Keep up the good work and thank you!

Any questions or comments about the Action please contact Organizer Jay Roszman at 651-8889 or email him at jay@viavt.org.

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Canvass Update

As you read this newsletter, you'll know that the 2008-2009 pledging season is in full swing with the theme of 'Now Let Us Sing.' If you have received the canvas brochure, you know of the financial needs of the First Unitarian Universalist Society. You know that a 12% increase in funding is needed to keep our congregation vibrant and strong.

After taking a look at the annual budget for this year, I've noticed that nothing is getting any less costly. For example in 05/06 it cost \$7,600 to heat our building; in 06/07 it cost \$7,900. With the cost of fuel going up, so will our heating bill. The same is true for our electric bill; in 05/06 our total electric costs for the year was \$6,300, in 06/07 it was \$9,800. Now part of this huge increase was due to a new classification given to us by Burlington Electric where we are now charged a demand fee, but the bottom line is the same, it costs a whole lot more money to keep this place warm and light. One of our major needs this year will be the hiring of a full time minister. Our beloved Roddy is retiring and, at present, is paid at ¾ time. It goes without saying that the finances will increase in this area.

'Now Let Us Sing' as we, who can, increase our pledge to continue to meet the needs of our society. Thank you, *Pat Allen* for the *Canvass Committee*.